

Charles W. Whitehead 1892



Yours Truly
C. W. Whitehead

Whitehead, Charles W., prominently identified with the real estate and banking interests of Kansas City, was born November 20, 1842. His parents, John and Sarah (Hill) Whitehead, were natives of England and removed to this country when Charles W. was four years of age. They located in Orange County, New York, and the son resided in that State until 1871, when he removed to

Kansas City, Missouri. After acquiring an elementary education in the public schools of Orange County, he entered upon an apprenticeship for the purpose of learning the harness making and carriage trimming business. He followed that trade until his response to a call for soldiers in defense of the Union. At the age of eighteen, before his apprenticeship was completed, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth New York Volunteers, and served with that regiment from 1862 until the surrender at Appomattox, said regiment being one of the Fox "Three Hundred

Fighting Regiments” of the war. He was an eye witness of the memorable scene enacted at that historic spot when the Southern leader relinquished his arms and surrendered to General Grant. He marched in the great review of the Army of the Potomac in Washington at the close of the war, and on the following day was privileged to witness the review of Sherman’s army as it marched up Pennsylvania Avenue. When the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held at Washington in 1892, Mr. Whitehead was the commander of the Department of Missouri, and as the seemingly endless ranks of veterans passed in review before the high officials of the nation and of the Grand Army, he had the proud distinction of riding at the head of the Missouri department, over the same route traversed by the soldiers fresh from the scenes of battle twenty-seven years before. After the war he returned to the old homestead in New York, and a short time later embarked in business in partnership with the man who had been his instructor during his apprenticeship. There he remained until 1871, when he removed to Kansas City, Missouri, where he engaged in the real estate business, with which interests he has been actively connected ever since. He built a number of houses in Kansas City before opening an office for the transaction of a realty business, and has always labored in every possibly way for the advancement of the city’s interests and the growth of her substantial enterprises. He has been instrumental in laying out several additions to Kansas City, including Whitehead Place, a tract of twenty acres; Broadway Park and others. About seventy-five residences have been erected by him and the improvements projected under his management have been of a wholesome and helpful kind. He has served as president of the Real Estate and Stock Exchange for one year, and was elected chairman of the appraisement committee of said organization by his associates for several years in succession. His son, a college-bred man of superior tact and culture, is now associated with his father, the style of the firm being C.W. & C.H. Whitehead. The senior member of this firm assisted in 1887, in the organization of the Union National Bank, and since its organization has been a director in the bank. He is the president of the Missouri Union Trust Company, organized in 1885, and has held the chief position in this company since the time of its inception. He is a director in the well known live stock commission firm known as the Barse Live Stock Commission Company, and has been so connected with it since its organization as a stock company. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Western Union Land Company. As a factor in the financial affairs of Kansas City, he has been largely instrumental in bringing Eastern capital to the city for extensive investments. Mr. Whitehead was the commander of the Department of Missouri, Grand Army of the Republic, during the years 1892-3, and has always taken an active part in the workings of that great organization. Politically he is a Republican. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church, was chairman of the board of trustees of the Second

Presbyterian Church, of Kansas City, up to the time of the congregation's division, and since that time has been chairman of the board of trustees of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. He was married in 1868 to Miss Mary Heaton Drake, daughter of Dr. Charles Drake, of Newburgh, Orange County, New York. The only living child of Mr. and Mrs. Whitehead is C.H. Whitehead, who graduated from Princeton University in 1896, and who is now associated with his father in the real estate and loan business. He married Mary Maud, daughter of General Frank Askew, and they have one son, Charles Franklin, named in honor of both his grandfathers. Mr. Whitehead is recognized by his contemporaries as one of the most level-headed and broad-gauged real estate men of Kansas City.

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Member of George H. Thomas Post 8, Kansas City.
Died 8 December 1908.